

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 17, 2000

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director

FROM: Paul F. Gubanc and David T. Moyle, Oak Ridge Site Representatives

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending November 17, 2000

A. Recommendation 2000-2: On October 31, the Secretary of Energy submitted to the Board his Implementation Plan (IP) for Recom. 2000-2, *Configuration Management, Vital Safety Systems*. In that IP, "Commitment 2" calls for lists of safety systems for defense nuclear facilities to be compiled by the end of November. The field must act quickly if it is to support this commitment as well as initiate the "Phase 1" assessments called for in the IP (the first being due in February 2001).

1. Lacking any formal tasking from DOE Headquarters, YAO proceeded to task BWXT to support implementation of Recommendation 2000-2. (Clause H.24 of the BWXT Y-12 contract specifically addresses contractor activities in support of DOE IP's sent to the Board.)
2. After a conference call Thursday with DOE-HQ, YAO believes that the noun names after the building numbers in the IP lists of facilities (Appendix E) are intended to specify only certain portions of the buildings for assessment. For example, assessment of Y-12's "Building 9204-2E, Disassembly Operations" would be limited only to those areas performing disassembly work. We are working with YAO and our staff (Burnfield) to identify the basis for this interpretation. (1-C)

B. Y-12 Enriched Uranium Operations (EUO) - Reduction: On Friday, BWXT presented to YAO a proposed schedule for restart of the EUO reduction process which will be formally transmitted next week. The presentation revealed several changes in management philosophy which are refreshing but unproven at Y-12. Some key observations:

1. The schedule is significantly protracted over previous schedules, with an NNSA ORR running from late March to early April 2001. We are surprised at the completion date considering that the reaction vessel technical basis reports are to be issued by November 30, 2000. BWXT management expressed their commitment to meet milestones and provide achievable, resource-loaded schedules. Furthermore, they indicated that activity start dates should be viewed as critical path start dates with the understanding that resources must be prepared to start early if possible.
2. BWXT is proposing to brief the Board in February 2001, just prior to their management self assessment (MSA) of readiness. BWXT intends to use the MSA to verify readiness rather than using the MSA to "get ready" as has been seen in the recent past.

3. In the near future, weekly progress meetings between BWXT and YAO will focus on resource-loaded schedules and reporting of cost and schedule variances using earned value techniques. This will allow for more focused discussion on emerging problems. (2-A)

C. Y-12 Maintenance: Y-12 utilizes a database program called Equipment and Inspection Scheduler (EIS) to manage its maintenance program. Mr. Gubanc was trained on the use of EIS this week.

1. As identified in the findings of the contractor's 1999 and 2000 Y-12 ISM assessments, EIS is relatively new, incompletely populated, poorly understood, and not well integrated into Y-12's procedures. Robust deployment of EIS is an essential element in regaining control of overdue preventative maintenance, testing and inspections (including fire protection).
2. EIS is an extremely powerful tool but can be improperly applied and corrupted by poorly trained users. For example, EIS can define and specify calibration requirements for equipment (called Application References). As currently configured, a work planner can select, and even create, these requirements within EIS without the involvement of engineering. (1-C)

cc: Board Members